

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8416

AN ACT

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal
Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Information sharing for Federal agencies.
- Sec. 3. Universal application for individual assistance.
- Sec. 4. Repair and rebuilding.
- Sec. 5. Direct assistance.
- Sec. 6. State-managed housing pilot authority.
- Sec. 7. Management costs.
- Sec. 8. Individual assistance post-disaster housing study.
- Sec. 9. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.
- Sec. 10. Individual assistance dashboard.
- Sec. 11. FEMA reports.
- Sec. 12. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.
- Sec. 13. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.
- Sec. 14. Applicability.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided, the
7 terms used in this Act have the meanings given such terms
8 in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
9 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

10 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION
12 SHARING SYSTEM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
14 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall estab-
15 lish and maintain a web-based interagency electronic
16 information sharing system, to be known as
17 “DisasterAssistance.gov”, to—

1 (A) facilitate the administration of the uni-
2 versal application for direct Federal disaster as-
3 sistance established under section 3;

4 (B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-
5 sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably,
6 and in accordance with applicable laws, regula-
7 tions, and the privacy and data protections pro-
8 vided under this section; and

9 (C) support the detection, prevention, and
10 investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, inequitable
11 allocation of resources, or discrimination in the
12 administration of disaster assistance programs.

13 (2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In es-
14 tablishing and maintaining the electronic informa-
15 tion sharing system under this subsection, the Ad-
16 ministrator may collect and maintain disaster assist-
17 ance information received from a disaster assistance
18 agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for
19 a disaster assistance program and share such infor-
20 mation with any other disaster assistance agency or
21 block grant recipient using such electronic informa-
22 tion sharing system.

23 (b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facili-
24 tate the collection of disaster assistance information into
25 the electronic information sharing system established

1 under this section only after the following requirements
2 have been met:

3 (1) The Administrator certifies that the elec-
4 tronic information sharing system substantially com-
5 plies with the data security standards and best prac-
6 tices established pursuant to subchapter II of chap-
7 ter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any other
8 applicable Federal information security policy.

9 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security pub-
10 lishes a privacy impact assessment for the electronic
11 information sharing system, in accordance with sec-
12 tion 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
13 U.S.C. 142).

14 (3) The Administrator, after consulting with
15 disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard
16 rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies,
17 block grant recipients, and personnel granted access
18 to disaster assistance information to protect such in-
19 formation from improper disclosure.

20 (c) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL
21 RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-
23 thorize the collection, maintenance, sharing, and use
24 of additional disaster assistance information by pub-

lishing a notice on DisasterAssistance.gov that includes a detailed description of—

(A) the specific amendments to the collection, maintenance, and sharing of disaster assistance information authorized;

(B) why each such amendment to how disaster assistance information is collected, maintained, or shared is necessary to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program and consistent with the fair information practice principles; and

(C) the disaster assistance agencies and block grant recipients that will be granted access to the additional information to carry out the purposes of any disaster assistance program.

(2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The publication of a notice under paragraph (1) of a revision to the DisasterAssistance.gov system of records prior to any new collection, or uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program with regard to a disaster declared by the President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42

1 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to satisfy the
2 notice and publication requirements of section
3 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for the en-
4 tire period of performance for any assistance pro-
5 vided under a disaster assistance program.

6 (3) WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION RE-
7 QUIREMENTS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of
9 a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-
10 tions 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
11 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
12 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), the President may direct
13 the Administrator to waive the requirements of
14 subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United
15 States Code, with respect to voluntary collection
16 of information for the duration of such major
17 disaster or emergency.

18 (B) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the
19 waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the
20 Administrator shall—

21 (i) promptly post on a website of the
22 Federal Emergency Management Agency a
23 brief justification for such waiver, the an-
24 ticipated period of time such waiver will be
25 in effect, and the disaster assistance offices

1 within the Federal Emergency Manage-
2 ment Agency to which such waiver shall
3 apply; and

4 (ii) update the information relating to
5 such waiver, as applicable.

6 (4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION
7 COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
10 Comptroller General of the United States shall
11 issue a report describing the benefits and poten-
12 tial risks associated with authorizing the waiver
13 of the information collection requirements de-
14 scribed in paragraph (3).

15 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required
16 under subparagraph (A) shall include an assess-
17 ment of the extent to which a waiver described
18 in paragraph (3) would—

19 (i) affect the paperwork burden for in-
20 dividuals, small businesses, State, local and
21 tribal governments, and other persons;

22 (ii) affect the consistent application of
23 Federal laws relating to—

24 (I) privacy and confidentiality;

25 (II) security of information; and

1 (III) access to information; and
2 (iii) encourage or deter a State or
3 other entity from participating in the vol-
4 untary collection of information for the du-
5 ration of a major disaster or emergency.

6 (d) USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may per-
8 mit a Federal agency other than a disaster assist-
9 ance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through
10 (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the electronic infor-
11 mation sharing system established under this section
12 for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assist-
13 ance if such agency enters into an agreement con-
14 taining the terms described in paragraph (2).

15 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENT.—An agreement en-
16 tered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the fol-
17 lowing terms:

18 (A) The Federal agency shall—

19 (i) collect, share, maintain, and use
20 disaster assistance information in compli-
21 ance with this section and any policies of
22 the Federal Emergency Management
23 Agency and any information protection and
24 use policies of such Federal agency; and

1 (ii) train any personnel granted access
2 to disaster assistance information on the
3 rules of behavior established by the Admin-
4 istrator under subsection (b)(3).

5 (B) In the event of any unauthorized dis-
6 closure of disaster assistance information, the
7 Federal agency shall—

8 (i) notify the Administrator within 24
9 hours of discovering any such unauthorized
10 disclosure;

11 (ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-
12 trator in the investigation and remediation
13 of any such disclosure;

14 (iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution
15 of a person responsible for such disclosure;
16 and

17 (iv) assume the responsibility for any
18 compensation, civil liability, or other reme-
19 diation measures, whether awarded by a
20 judgment of a court or agreed as a com-
21 promise of any potential claims by or on
22 behalf of an applicant, including by obtain-
23 ing credit monitoring and remediation
24 services, for an improper disclosure that
25 is—

1 (I) caused, directly or indirectly,
2 by the acts or omissions of officers,
3 employees, and contractors of the
4 agency; or

5 (II) from any electronic system
6 of records that is created or main-
7 tained by the agency pursuant to sec-
8 tion 552a(e) of title 5, United States
9 Code.

10 (3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—

11 The Administrator shall publish an agency agree-
12 ment entered into under this subsection on the same
13 website as the electronic information sharing system
14 established under this section.

15 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing and use
16 of disaster assistance information that is subject to the
17 requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States
18 Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant re-
19 cipients shall not—

20 (1) be construed as a matching program for
21 purposes of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or

22 (2) be subject to the remaining computer
23 matching provisions of section 552a of such title.

24 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant”
2 means—

3 (A) a person who applies for disaster as-
4 sistance from a disaster assistance program;
5 and

6 (B) a person on whose behalf a person de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (A) has applied for dis-
8 aster assistance.

9 (2) BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term
10 “block grant recipient” means a State, local govern-
11 ment, or Indian Tribe that receives assistance
12 through the disaster assistance program described in
13 paragraph (5)(B)(i).

14 (3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term
15 “disaster assistance agency” means—

16 (A) the Federal Emergency Management
17 Agency;

18 (B) the Department of Housing and
19 Urban Development;

20 (C) the Small Business Administration;

21 (D) the Department of Agriculture;

22 (E) any other Federal agency that the Ad-
23 ministrator permits to use the electronic infor-
24 mation sharing system under subsection (d).

1 (4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The
2 term “disaster assistance information” includes any
3 personal, demographic, biographical, geographical,
4 financial information, or other information that a
5 disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is
6 authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to proc-
7 ess an application for disaster assistance or other-
8 wise carry out a disaster assistance program.

9 (5) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The
10 term “disaster assistance program” means—

11 (A) any program that provides assistance
12 to individuals and households under title IV or
13 title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
14 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170
15 et seq.); and

16 (B) any other assistance program carried
17 out by a disaster assistance agency that pro-
18 vides assistance to an individual, household, or
19 organization related to a major disaster or
20 emergency declared under sections 401 or 501
21 of such Act, including—

22 (i) assistance for activities related to
23 disaster relief, long-term recovery, restora-
24 tion of infrastructure and housing, eco-
25 nomic revitalization, and mitigation that

are authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) any loan that is authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

(iii) the distribution of food benefit allotments as authorized under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall develop and establish a universal application for direct Federal disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted by emergencies or disasters.

(b) CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consult with the following:

(A) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

1 (B) The Administrator of the Small Busi-
2 ness Administration.

3 (C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
4 Development.

5 (D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

6 (2) SUPPORT.—The entities described in para-
7 graph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Ad-
8 ministrator.

9 (c) SURVEY.—The application established under sub-
10 section (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the
11 demographic data of an applicant.

12 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND
13 DISASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PRO-
14 GRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
16 States shall—

17 (1) conduct an assessment of improper and po-
18 tentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
19 individuals made to victims of major disasters de-
20 clared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity
21 theft; and

22 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
23 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
24 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-

1 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that de-
2 scribes—

3 (A) the prevalence of improper and poten-
4 tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
5 individuals made to registrants who used invalid
6 information to apply for disaster assistance, in-
7 cluding through identity theft;

8 (B) the number of disaster victims whose
9 claims for Federal disaster assistance for indi-
10 viduals were denied due to another individual
11 filing a fraudulent application using their per-
12 sonal identifying information;

13 (C) the adequacy of existing fraud preven-
14 tion protocols in place on the Federal Emer-
15 gency Management Agency’s online application
16 for Federal disaster assistance for individuals;
17 and

18 (D) recommendations for improving the
19 identity verification protocols in place for Fed-
20 eral disaster assistance for individuals.

21 **SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert
23 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and
2 inserting “damaged by a major disaster”; and

3 (2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of
4 damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting
5 “damaged by a major disaster”.

6 (b) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 408 of the Rob-
7 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
13 provide financial assistance to individuals and
14 households, whose primary residence, utilities,
15 or residential infrastructure are damaged by a
16 major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitiga-
17 tion measures that reduce threats to life and
18 property, or future damage to such residence,
19 utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

20 “(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
21 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
22 under this paragraph shall not be required to
23 show that the assistance can be met through
24 other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and

25 (2) in subsection (h)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, finan-
 2 cial assistance for hazard mitigation under sub-
 3 section (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection
 4 (c)(1)(A)(i)”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—The maximum fi-
 7 nancial assistance any individual or household may
 8 receive under subsection (c)(5) shall be equivalent to
 9 the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect
 10 to a single major disaster.”.

11 **SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.
 13 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
 14 (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking para-
 15 graph (2) and inserting the following:

16 “(2) REPAIRS.—

17 “(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RE-
 18 PAIRS.—The President may provide financial
 19 assistance for the repair of owner-occupied pri-
 20 vate residences, utilities, and residential infra-
 21 structure (such as a private access route) dam-
 22 aged by a major disaster, or with respect to in-
 23 dividuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible
 24 by a major disaster.

25 “(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The President
2 may provide direct assistance to individuals
3 and households who are unable to make
4 use of financial assistance under subpara-
5 graph (A) and when there is a lack of
6 available resources, for—

7 “(I) the repair of owner-occupied
8 private residences, utilities, and resi-
9 dential infrastructure (such as a pri-
10 vate access route) damaged by a
11 major disaster, or with respect to indi-
12 viduals with disabilities, rendered in-
13 accessible by a disaster; and

14 “(II) eligible hazard mitigation
15 measures that reduce the likelihood
16 and future damage to such residences,
17 utilities, and infrastructure.

18 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of as-
19 sistance under this subparagraph shall not
20 be eligible for assistance under paragraph
21 (1), unless otherwise determined by the
22 Administrator.

23 “(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
24 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
25 under this paragraph shall not be required to

1 show that the assistance can be met through
 2 other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

3 (b) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-AD-
 4 MINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSIST-
 5 ANCE.—Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
 6 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f))
 7 is amended—

8 (1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4),
 9 and (e)” each place it appears and inserting “para-
 10 graphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and
 11 subsection (e)”;

12 (2) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “subsection
 13 (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e)” and inserting “paragraph
 14 (1)(B), (2)(B), or (4) of subsection (c) or subsection
 15 (e)”.

16 **SEC. 6. STATE-MANAGED HOUSING PILOT AUTHORITY.**

17 Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
 18 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is
 19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (f)(3)—

21 (A) by striking subparagraph (F);

22 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (G),
 23 (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G),
 24 (H), and (I), respectively; and

1 (C) in subparagraph (I), as so redesign-
 2 nated—

3 (i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later
 4 than 2 years after the date of enactment
 5 of this paragraph, the” and inserting
 6 “The”; and

7 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking—

8 (I) “2 years after the date of en-
 9 actment of this paragraph or” and

10 (II) “, whichever occurs sooner”;
 11 and

12 (2) in subsection (g)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “para-
 14 graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and
 15 (3)”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of as-
 18 sistance provided under subsections (c)(1)(B),
 19 (c)(2)(B), and (c)(4), the Federal share shall be not
 20 less than 75 percent.”.

21 **SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324(b)(2) of the Robert
 23 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
 24 (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the
 25 end the following:

1 “(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee
 2 under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not
 3 more than 12 percent of the total award
 4 amount under each such section.

5 “(D) CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE,
 6 TRAINING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERV-
 7 ICES.—A grantee and subgrantee, cumulatively,
 8 may be reimbursed not more than 15 percent of
 9 the total amount of the grant award under ei-
 10 ther section 416 or 426.”.

11 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 408(f)(1) of
 12 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
 13 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “(A) GRANT TO STATE.—” and
 15 all that follows through “subsection (g),” and insert-
 16 ing “Subject to subsection (g),” ; and

17 (2) by striking subparagraph (B).

18 **SEC. 8. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE POST-DISASTER HOUSING**
 19 **STUDY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
 21 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
 22 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

23 (1) conduct a study and develop a plan under
 24 which the Agency will address the challenges associ-
 25 ated with providing housing assistance to survivors

1 of major disasters or emergencies pursuant to the
2 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
3 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), including
4 circumstances in which—

5 (A) the presence of multiple families within
6 a single household; and

7 (B) the near loss of a community, with the
8 majority of homes destroyed in such commu-
9 nity, with discrete assessments on flood, wild-
10 fire, and earthquake events; and

11 (2) make recommendations for legislative
12 changes needed to address the challenges described
13 in paragraph (1).

14 (b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
15 subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with other
16 relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders.

17 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
18 activities carried out under subsection (a), the Adminis-
19 trator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
20 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
21 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
22 Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and
23 recommendations required under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 9. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DISASTER**
2 **ASSISTANCE.**

3 (a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Sec-
4 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
5 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
8 the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

11 (b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
12 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
13 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)
14 is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
16 ANCE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
18 Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter
19 into a cooperative agreement to provide funding to
20 a State agency established under subsection (c) to
21 establish and operate a website to provide informa-
22 tion relating to post-disaster recovery funding and
23 resources to a community or an individual impacted
24 by a major disaster or emergency.

25 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under
26 this subsection shall be—

1 “(A) managed by the State agency; and

2 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
3 of the State agency.

4 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may enter
5 into a cooperative agreement to establish a website
6 under this subsection only to provide 1 or more of
7 the following:

8 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
9 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-
10 sistance that may be available to a community
11 after a major disaster or emergency.

12 “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local
13 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-
14 sistance that may be available to an individual
15 impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

16 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
17 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
18 available to a community to mitigate the im-
19 pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-
20 pare for sequential hazards such as flooding
21 after a wildfire.

22 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that en-
23 ters into a cooperative agreement under this sub-
24 section shall cooperate with the Secretary of the In-
25 terior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of

1 Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator
2 of the Small Business Administration, and the Ad-
3 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management
4 Agency in developing a website under this sub-
5 section.

6 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
7 funding to establish a website under this subsection
8 shall update the website not less than once every 6
9 months.”.

10 **SEC. 10. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

11 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
12 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 431. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after a
16 declaration by the President that a major disaster exists
17 under section 401, the Administrator of the Federal
18 Emergency Management Agency shall publish on a
19 website of the Agency an interactive web tool displaying
20 the following information with respect to such disaster:

21 “(1) The number of applications for assistance
22 under section 408, including a description of the
23 number of applications for assistance related to
24 housing under such section and the number of appli-

1 cations for assistance to address other needs under
2 section 408(e).

3 “(2) The number of applications for such as-
4 sistance that are approved.

5 “(3) The number of applications for such as-
6 sistance that are denied.

7 “(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial
8 of such applications, including the number of appli-
9 cations for each reason for denial.

10 “(5) If available, the dollar amount of assist-
11 ance provided pursuant to section 408 to applicants
12 who are—

13 “(A) property owners with a household an-
14 nual income—

15 “(i) above the national median house-
16 hold income; and

17 “(ii) below the national median house-
18 hold income; and

19 “(B) renters with a household annual in-
20 come—

21 “(i) above the national median house-
22 hold income; and

23 “(ii) below the national median house-
24 hold income.

1 “(6) The estimated percentage of residential
2 property that was destroyed as a result of the major
3 disaster, if available.

4 “(b) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—
5 The Administrator shall ensure that none of the informa-
6 tion published under subsection (a) contains the personally
7 identifiable information of an applicant.”.

8 **SEC. 11. FEMA REPORTS.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
11 Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on
12 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
14 and Government Affairs of the Senate a report with re-
15 spect to fiscal year 2016 through the most recent fiscal
16 year ending before the date of enactment of this Act, and
17 an annual report for any fiscal year beginning on or after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, describing—

19 (1) the average amount of individual assistance
20 and individual and household assistance provided
21 under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
22 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
23 5121 et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual
24 assistance and individual and household assistance
25 provided under such section for—

1 (A) all individuals;

2 (B) households;

3 (C) individuals and households with an an-
4 nual income under 75 percent of the national
5 median household income;

6 (D) individuals with an annual income over
7 125 percent of the national median household
8 income; and

9 (E) individuals with an annual income be-
10 tween 75 percent and 125 percent of the na-
11 tional median household income; and

12 (2) an explanation for any factors causing an
13 increase in the rate of denial of the assistance de-
14 scribed in paragraph (1), if applicable.

15 **SEC. 12. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-**
16 **SONNEL.**

17 Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
18 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-
21 SONNEL.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for
23 which the President has authorized emergency pro-
24 tective measures for an area within the jurisdiction
25 of a State, tribal, or local government, the Adminis-

1 trator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local gov-
2 ernment for costs relating to sheltering emergency
3 response personnel, including individuals that are a
4 part of the same predisaster household as such per-
5 sonnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-con-
6 gregate settings if the Governor of the State or chief
7 executive of the tribal or local government deter-
8 mines that the damage or disruption to such area is
9 of such a magnitude as to disrupt the provision of
10 emergency protective measures within such area.

11 “(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
13 may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local gov-
14 ernment for the costs of sheltering emergency
15 response personnel under paragraph (1) for
16 such a period of time as the Administrator de-
17 termines reasonable based in the individual
18 characteristics of and impacts to the affected
19 area, including the extent of damage, the avail-
20 ability of alternative housing options, the avail-
21 ability of utilities, and disruptions to transpor-
22 tation infrastructure.

23 “(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSE-
24 MENT.—The period of reimbursement under
25 subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month

1 period beginning on the date on which the inci-
2 dent period ends.

3 “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
4 ‘emergency response personnel’ means—

5 “(A) employees or contracted employees
6 providing law enforcement, fire suppression,
7 rescue, emergency medical, emergency manage-
8 ment, or emergency communications services;
9 and

10 “(B) elected officials, except members of
11 Congress, responsible for the overseeing or di-
12 recting emergency response operations or recov-
13 ery activities.”.

14 **SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESS-**
15 **MENTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
17 United States shall conduct a study on the practices, in-
18 cluding the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal
19 Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting
20 preliminary damage assessments for the purposes of pro-
21 viding assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Staf-
22 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42.
23 U.S.C. 5174).

1 (b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall in-
2 clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (1) A comparison of the process and procedures
5 used by the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
6 cy to complete preliminary damage assessments to
7 the process and procedures used by private insur-
8 ance companies following a major disaster.

9 (2) A review of training provided to individuals
10 conducting preliminary damage assessments.

11 (3) A comparison of damage estimates for
12 homes owned by individuals above the national me-
13 dian income to homes owned by individuals at or
14 below the national median income.

15 **SEC. 14. APPLICABILITY.**

16 The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 9, and
17 12 shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after
18 the date of enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives November 17,
2022.

Attest:

Clerk.

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8416

AN ACT

To improve individual assistance provided by the
Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for
other purposes.